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ON MAY 19, 1969, PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH IS 79



IN THIS MONTH OF MAY

NOBODY can any longer have any doubt about the Vietnamese people's unshakable will to fight on until victory is won. Independence and freedom are recognised. B-52s, still less Marine or Air Cavalry divisions, won't have much effect on the Vietnamese. An American soldier pitches his tent on Vietnamese soil, there will always be a Vietnamese combatant to make life unbearable for him again. Vietnamese people are writing an epic many a time renewed in the course of the centuries.

In the face of powerful invaders, a 13th century poem declared:

On this land, only a Vietnamese king shall reign.
So have decided the Books of Heaven.

In the 13th, 15th, 18th centuries, this unwavering determination to safeguard national independence and aggressions by the most powerful armies of those times. In the 19th century, hardly had the foreign colonist landed in Nam Bo, than Nguyen TRONG TRU's name — "growing as a blade of grass grows on this land, there shall remain men to fight the aggressor."

The 20th century has seen more foreign aggressions than ever in Viet Nam's history. Within a quarter of a century, French, Japanese, Chiang Kai-Shek, then American invaders have in turn invaded the national territory. Never has the gap been so big between the aggressor's material force and that of the Vietnamese people. Never have the latter had to mobilise so much energy, evince such dauntlessness, show such grim determination in their struggle.

Never has the appeal for national independence and freedom, times immemorial, resounded so loud and clear in the conscience of the men of Viet Nam. On this hard road to liberation, there has been a man whose destiny is enfolded in that of the nation and

whose voice expresses the most justifiably the entire people's aspirations to independence and freedom. For more than 20 years, President HO CHI MINH, has devoted his life wholly to the service of the fatherland.

For the Vietnamese people, the person of Ho Chi Minh represents more than the age-old aspiration for national independence. For when a Vietnamese thinks back along the centuries, he hears the unbroken clanging of heroic, self-sacrificing, resolute Vietnamese people, who, with Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people have understood that to get rid of the foreign occupier would be but a fruitless endeavour. For that is what did open up so many social prospects. The landless, peasant, the slave-workers, the "evacuees" in the war-torn words of the colonists, the refugees, the old and the young, the highlanders looked down upon as a sub-human being — all have found in the course charted by Ho Chi Minh the way to their liberation.

In his moral stature, he was closely bound to that of the fatherland. Independence and freedom are welded into an indissoluble ideal, against which the American war machine is impotent.

In this month of May, when President Ho Chi Minh is having his 79th birthday, the Vietnamese people, in both North and South, are happy to see him stand in the light, as always deeply human, sensitive to all the aspirations of the people, as always firm and unwavering concerning the anti-imperialist cause of the world, as always clear-sighted, able to adapt himself to the most complex realisation, and to practise with great ingenuity that art of the possible, which makes great statesmen.

In these days when the fight against American aggression is entering a decisive stage, the Vietnamese people, in both North and South, turn to their President, to wish him a happy birthday, simply tell him: "We shall fight on until victory!"

While U.S. and puppet generals claim that the PLAF are out of breath,

Since May 11, Hundreds Of Major Targets Hit Overnight Throughout South Viet Nam

- Nearly all U.S. division and brigade HQs around Saigon, the most important airbases and other positions in nearly twenty towns and scores of urban centres stormed.
- SAIGON, DA NANG, HUE, DALAT, CAM RANH were among the targets hit.
- Heavy enemy losses in men and materials.

Just Position, Serious Attitude

(Excerpts from a commentary by Giai Phong Press Agency (GPA) on May 11, 1969 on the NFL to-point overall solution)

LIKE the NFL Political Program and 5 points mon-to-mon-to-point solution is primarily based on the prevailing situation in South Viet Nam.

This situation can be described as follows: over the past 12 years, carrying out their scheme to invade and subdue Viet Nam in order to transform it into a new-type colony and military base of the U.S., the U.S. imperialists have been intervening from direct aggression against South Viet Nam by committing their troops there in a move to violate the South's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of South Viet Nam, and in defiance of the fundamental principles of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and all norms of international law.

On the other hand, under the glorious banner of the NFL, the South Viet Nam people rallied in a monolithic bloc, have been putting up a heroic and persevering fight against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen and have recorded greater and greater successes.

Following its heavy setbacks in the two zones of Viet Nam, the U.S. has been compelled to halt unconditionally the bombardments on the whole of the DRVN and accept the peace proposal in Paris to seek a political solution to the Viet Nam problem, while it is actually performing the striking of its aggressive scheme to maintain the illusion to secure a position of strength, the U.S. government has left no stone unturned to push up the so-called "solution" to the illegal presence of the U.S. expeditionary corps in South Viet Nam and to maintain in power the belligerent and rotten Thieu Ky-Huong puppet

clique as a tool to achieve its neo-colonial designs in South Viet Nam. "Facts speak louder than words," the President of the United States, in spite of his multiple professions of "peace" and suggestions of "peaceful solution" to the Viet Nam conflict, Nixon has been concurrently beeping up the U.S. expeditionary corps and trying to strengthen and reequip the puppet army to commit more and more frantic execution of the "accelerated pacification" program, U.S. puppet and satellite troops have been stepping up terror and massacre in the South Viet Nam people, of which the Ba Lang An, Kong H'Ring, That Heep, the Lai Muoi jungle massacre, mass massacres are only a few gruesome samples. The U.S. has also been intensifying B-52 wanton bombings which have taken a toll of 100,000 civilian lives, right in the areas bordering on major cities. In the towns and strata under U.S. puppet control, the Thieu Ky-Huong administration agents of U.S. imperialism has been openly suppressing all aspirations for peace, independence, democracy, according to terms, arrests and imprisonment against all those who urge the establishment of a peace cabinet, and of negotiating a peace with the NFL. Meanwhile, at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the U.S. representative has sought every way and means to distort the truth and conceal the criminal aggression by the United States and the treason and belligerence of the Thieu Ky-Huong clique, and has imposed unreasonable demands in the effort to build a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam. The Front's overall solution is a sound and logical basis for the settlement of the

South Viet Nam problem, a contribution to the restoration of peace in Viet Nam. It opens up bright prospects for concluding peace and security in the Indochinese peninsula and Southeast Asia. It offers the U.S. government a good chance to end, in an honourable way, the utterly desperate war that has smared the honour of the U.S. nation.

A has been pointed out by progressive opinion all over the world, the NFL program is a momentous move. It is a fresh contribution by the NFL to the progress of the Paris Conference, to the cessation of the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam and the peace settlement of the South Viet Nam question.

The Indochinese peoples are facing a common enemy, the U.S. imperialist aggressor. Bound by an age-old friendship, the peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia, Laos will further close their ranks in the defence and consolidation of the peace, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of their respective countries. The recent decision of the Cambodian Royal Government headed by Prince Sihanouk to send the South Viet Nam NFL to raise to ambassadorial level their diplomatic relations is a fine token of this fraternal and durable friendship.

Progressives in the five continents have always re-

served the deepest sympathy and the warmest support for the fight of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. The Front has condemned and backed the five points of the NFL, and will certainly apply greater pressure on the U.S. government to accept the overall solution advanced by the NFL, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam without setting any condition, and help the South Viet Nam people and the Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs without foreign interference.

The American people have been fully aware of the suffering and miseries brought to the South Vietnamese and especially the growing disasters caused by the Americans by the war of aggression, and kept up in South Viet Nam by the U.S. Government. They will surely join efforts with all other peoples in the world to demand that the Nixon administration respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, stop its war of aggression and bring home all American troops without any condition.

All the South Vietnamese people, led by the NFL, will resolutely pursue the struggle up to urban centers for the replacement of the Thieu Ky-Huong clique, for the cessation of the US war of aggression and the restoration of peace in South Viet Nam.

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CONFRONTED with the NFL just stand and reasonable demands embodied in its ten points and with the widespread support for them, the U.S. administration's response has been one of caution and its Secretary of State William P. Rogers declared on May 9 that the U.S. would "examine carefully" the NFL's overall solution.

Only the Thieu Ky-Huong administration has reacted with unwarrented arrogance and inconsiderate baseness. A communiqué, loose in wording and lacking in cogent arguments, was published by it on May 9 in reply to the NFL offer. Again, the Saigon adminis-

Hanoi press opinion

PUPPET ADMINISTRATION'S FRANTIC RESPONSE TO NFL PROPOSALS

iration styled itself as a "constitutional government", and showed its opposition to a provisional coalition government and to neutrality. U.S. absurd demands for "actual withdrawal", "restoration of the demilitarized zone", and "exchange of POWs" were again repeated by the puppet regime.

The unscrupulous behaviour of the U.S. - paid henchmen at Saigon came as no surprise at all. The NFL's overall solution - whose principles and gist see to the people's basic national rights, and indicate a sensible way to the settlement of practical problems, conforming to

the spirit of national concord and reality - has dealt a damaging blow at their policy of war and betrayal and their reactionary, corrupted regime. Therefore, it is clear that the Thieu Ky-Huong frantic reaction to the overall solution put forward by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, is aimed at prolonging indefinitely the occupation of South Viet Nam by U.S. expeditionary troops to se-

The Thieu Ky-Huong administration's effort is but a

last-ditch attempt. This triunvirate of traitors dreads the NFL's just stand as much as a mole fears daylight. However, the more obdurately and impudently they act, the clearer their weakness will appear. Were it not for the protection by U.S. forces, they would not have been viable at all.

The Thieu Ky-Huong adminis-

FATHERLAND FRONT HAILS NFL OVERALL SOLUTION

THE presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front at its recent session came out in warm support, in a statement, for the "principles and main content" of the NFL to settle the South Viet Nam problem to the South Viet Nam question of the South Viet Nam question.

The statement said:

"The Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee warmly hails the NFL overall solution and regards it as a very important document likely to open an avenue to the settlement of the Viet Nam issue on the principle that the U.S. government should halt its aggression

which, for the sake of justice, have been violated by the Vietnamese people's anti-U.S. aggression cause, will increase their support and assistance to the Vietnamese people toward complete victory, actively back the NFL overall solution, and firmly insist that the U.S. respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, stop its aggression and unconditionally pull out all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam."

PRELIMINARY remarks on Mr. Nixon's May 14 speech were given at the 17th session by Mr. Tran Buu Kien, head of the NFL, and by Mr. Xuan Thuy, leader of the DRVN government delegation on Viet Nam, and declares that the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, stop its aggression and help restore peace in Viet Nam. It is consistent with own Political Program.

"The Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee warmly hails the NFL overall solution and regards it as a very important document likely to open an avenue to the settlement of the Viet Nam issue on the principle that the U.S. government should halt its aggression

that the NFL lay down its weapons a prerequisite to its "participation in the political life" of the Saigon regime.

M. Xuan Thuy laid bare the unavowed intentions of Mr. Nixon in his manifesto on the withdrawal from South Viet Nam of all non-South Vietnamese forces. The U.S. president wanted merely to blur the line between the Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression on the one hand, and issues concerning only the Vietnamese on the other. He spoke of "free choice" for the South Vietnamese people, but all along, the last 15 years, the United States has been striving to impose by force of arms on the South Vietnamese people puppet regimes abhorred by them, and at present it is still trying to impose on them the warlike and rotten Thieu Ky-Huong triumvirate.

Mr. Xuan Thuy denounced U.S. war intensification in both zones of Viet Nam. He concluded that the U.S. rulers should show more leniency if they want to reach a Viet Nam settlement. On the basis of the NFL's ten points the DRVN government chief negotiator said, to conclude, with the parties concerned, agreements on problems raised in the May 8, 1969 document of the NFL.

Questioning a civilian
by the U.S. quizzing



PRESIDENT HO'S BASKET OF FLOWERS

On the morning of May 19, 1969, when the bridge builders of the 1st group of the road building and maintenance unit were engaged in a stirring drive for new achievements in honour of President Ho Chi Minh's birthday, informed and happy workers came to them: on the occasion of his 79th birthday, President Ho sent the road building and maintenance unit a basket of flowers, and on his suggestion, the service decided to present it to the workers and workers at the 1st group which had just been awarded three Labour and Exploit orders after a year of work and fight on roads most ferociously struck by the enemy.

And they have lived up to their pledge. The lower part of the bridge was completed on schedule, and the workers had saved 400 work-days, topping work productivity norms by 140%. That morning, when group leader Phan Hoang was about to go and present the unit's achievements to higher level in celebration of President Ho's birthday, the group heard of the happy news that President Ho had sent them a basket of flowers. Hundreds of road builders, men and women, were overwhelmed with joy as they stood gazing at the fresh flowers. They came from different parts of the country, from Lang Son in the northwestern to Ca Mau in the southeastern, and different nationalities: Kinh, Tho, Tay, Nung... President Ho's basket of flowers assumed for them the meaning of "Uncle Come Tu, head of the 1st platoon, 3rd company, of the Tay national minority in Lang Son province, elite worker of the group, told his workmates: "This basket of flowers given to the communication and transport service is a token of Uncle Ho's affection is a source of immense encouragement to all the nationalities who are joining forces in fighting against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. After our call to the revolution, the construction site that we dash the building line by ten days. What do you say to writing the higher level and proposing it?" Everyone was agreeable. Immediately afterward, before the basket of flowers presented by President Ho, the 1st group launched a new emulation drive under the slogan "Score new achievements to greet Uncle Ho's flowers, build bridge". A steadily growing pile of flowers. And that the workers deserved to their post. And since the construction site was bustling with more hectic activity. After each work-hour the loudspeaker announced a new record: "the whole construction site surpassed productivity norms by 30% on May 19, 35% on May 20, and more than 42% on June 21. An unusual sense of urgency and enthusiasm pervaded the whole construction site of Bridge A on every night of May.

Everyone was overwhelmed with joy as he stood in front of Uncle's basket of flowers. Phan Hoang, the group leader, said: "Usually when comes the birthday of our leader, we send him flowers with wishes for good health and longevity. Now he instead sent us flowers on his birthday... His voice was choked with emotion, and all of us who were standing around him felt also profoundly moved.

Four days earlier, in this very place on the bank of this river and in the shade of this same group of fir-trees, the 1st group had formally started the building of Bridge A. After three years of fighting against the U.S. in the fighting against the U.S. in the fighting against the U.S. aggression, the bridge builders of this unit had many times gone to many places, in Hanoi, in Phu Nhieu, in Ha Tuy, in Hoa Binh, in Vinh Phuc, in Phu Tho, in Quang Binh... to spend the night in the mountain streams. But never had they tackled a bridge of such type. Not only was the shape of the bridge unfamiliar to them, but the place where it was to be built was also different from any other they had seen.

" Shall we undertake to complete Bridge A in 45 days?" Not a few at first moved because of the complexity of the job. In fact, their technical standard still left much to desire. This type of bridge was too strange and too sophisticated. Then there were the questions of manpower, tools, materials... and time was pressing.

But after many nights of heated discussions, group leader Phan Hoang succeeded in bringing home to his mates the feasibility of the project. There the group accepted the task and they named the bridge "May 19" as a reminder for them to act



President Ho Chi Minh and members of the visiting NFL delegation (North Viet Nam, March 1969).

Encounters With "Uncle"

I was with surprise and emotion that we learnt an honour and happiness surpassing all our expectations would befall us: Uncle Ho was coming to our unit.

It was a fine day. The sky spread over the bright morning sun that made the "silver swallows" (as the flocks of the People's Air Force called their jet interceptors) Ed. glitters and added brightness to the beaming face of everyone of us. Uncle Ho stepped down.

Cheers and applause became more tumultuous as he walked on with bold and steady pace to us. He smiled kindly holding up his cap and waving to us. His white hair fluttering gently. He was in a more augustousness to his looks.

On another occasion, Uncle Ho visited us after one of our most successful engagements.

"Which of you have shot down four US planes upwards?" he asked with a cheerful smile.

"Comrades Bay, M. and T. Uncle," the political commissar of the People's Air Force replied on our behalf.

"Any who have grounded four planes, I'll be even happier and fitter".

"Do you feel the heat in the jet?"

"Yes, we do. Uncle. But we can stand any heat," replied the pilot, his eyes glinted on President Ho.

Smiling happily, Uncle Ho swept all of us in a glance:

"I am very glad to see you so young and so good in handling such difficult planes. But if you don't hurry the Southern guerrillas will leave you no more U.S. planes to shoot down."

We all laughed heartily and felt that his gentle words had instilled to everyone of us a higher sense of purpose.

Leaving the runway, Uncle Ho came to inspect our living quarters where he

45 US Aircraft Downed in North Viet Nam Since Bombing Halt

On May 7, many U.S. aircraft attacked localities west of Quang Binh province. Local AA defence downed two F-105 Thunderchiefs within one hour. On May 11 two American piloted planes were grounded, one in Ha Tuy province, the other in the Nghe An province.

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VIET NAM COURIER

Why Is U.S. Aggression in South Viet Nam Doomed to Complete Failure

Commentary by Chien Thang

WITH the lightning offensives which took a few days for mounting for the enemy in the whole of South Viet Nam's territory in February 1968, the revolutionary and patriotic forces of the NLF have opened a new phase in the resistance against the U.S. aggressors for national salvation.

Staggered and bled white but always estimate, the enemy is bailing off his energies to get out of the desperate situation. While taking his strength and contriving new tactics or tactics readjusted to war needs, he leaves no stone unturned to induce people to believe that there has been a change for the better for him, and that the general of the "Pentagon" East, if given adequate time and means, will go to win the war, or at least, will try not to lose it.

For our readers from the current issue, we publish the 3 parts of this interesting commentary entitled "The new stage of the resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation is given a vigorous impulse and our people's complete victory is left in no doubt".

Sub-heads, boldface emphases and foot-notes are ours — Ed.

I. U.S. PRESENT DEFENSIVE STRATEGY IN SOUTH VIET NAM WILL FAIL LIKE THEIR ILL-FATED COUNTER-OFFENSIVE STRATEGY

What does U.S. defensive strategy consist of?

In the first phase of the U.S. imperialists' local war of aggression, our people foiled their counter-offensive strategy. On early Spring 1968, widened offensives were used in a new period in the fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation; it compelled an unexpected U.S. shift of strategy, and a replacement of "search-and-destroy and pacification" strategy with the "clear-and-hold" strategy, one of total defensive and passivity. During 1968, our people's attacks were unusually effective and brought about a historic turn in the process of defeating U.S. local war of aggression. Under their impact, the U.S. "clear-and-hold" strategy, with its search-and-destroy strategy, was completely destroyed. The U.S. was unable to complete its deployment until the end of 1968 although it had started it as early as February of that year.

The offensives of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, in early Spring this year put the U.S. defensive strategy to a severe test. It upset a whole series of calculations of the aggressors.

US "clear-and-hold" strategy presented an important step backward as it amounted to giving up the objective Number One of the "clear-and-hold" strategy which aimed at destroying the main force of the PLAF, and reducing the targets of all U.S. efforts in the defensive to two:

1. stave off serious losses for U.S. forces, and 2. prevent the further

in their fight against the U.S. imperialists' local war of aggression, our people have been continually achieving tremendous and all-sided successes.

As an answer to this, the Hanoi daily "Quan Do Nhan Dan" (People's Army) just published a long article under the pen of Chien Thang, an accredited military commentator.

For our readers from the current issue, we publish the 3 parts of this interesting commentary entitled "The new stage of the resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation is given a vigorous impulse and our people's complete victory is left in no doubt".

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present. According to disclosures by the American, B-52's have been daily dropping from 1,000 to 2,000, and sometimes nearly 3,000, tons of bombs to hurt the adversary on the outer fringe.

— Application of the tactics of "mobile encampments" formed in a mobile and mobile defence around key areas. In the Ho Chi Minh belt for the defence of Saigon, the central belt is the key US defence

line and the strongest of all directly manned by American troops.

— "Accelerated pacification" with ruthless means to terrorise and repress the rural areas for the seizure of territory and regroupment of peasants, in an effort to relieve pressure, and isolating and draft power for rapid building up of the US' strength through by destroying our revolutionary bases and our springboards.

U.S. strategists' dream and battlefield reality

THE Americans reckoned that in the counter-offensive strategy, they would expose a lot of their flaws, but they were very strong. With large total strength, sweeping fire-power and high mobility, they certainly would not be worried when on the defensive. Many US general staffs had forecasted that military force of the US would surely help it prevent, at least, from losing. This force could help it at least keep what it had gained, if it could not easily gain more.

The Americans also believed that their defence plan was perfect and, with its thick fire-power, its depth and its long-range detecting devices, this defence system would be a "meat-grinder" for the Viet Cong.

On the strength of these calculations, Abrams showed off his defensive strategy. Just at a moment when American commanders were bragging

that "it would be a real problem for the communists to mount attacks in this year's early Spring offensive", the South Vietnamese armed forces and people erupted from Quang Tri to the Cape of Ca Mau, from the jungled mountains of the Western Highlands to the coastal plains of Central Viet Nam. For all their preparations, the Americans were caught unawares and badly trounced.

The offensive struck an initial and timely blow at the Nixon administration which was obviously pursuing the war. It inflicted very heavy losses to the U.S. forces and war material on the US-puppets, especially the American troops. U.S. head-quarters admitted that "American troops casualties in early 1968 were heavier than those in early Spring 1968". It breached the U.S. strong defence lines, wiped out a number of troops encampments and violently rocket its defence system.

(Continued page 7)

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

JUST at the moment when Nixon, his secretaries and generals—who echo the Saigon quislings—claimed that the military situation in South Viet Nam was more than ever favourable to them and that the PLAF were winded and incapable of mounting any important actions, the world witnesses since the night of May 11 last, another flare-up offensives by the patriotic forces. From the region bordering on the DMZ (17th parallel) to the Mekong delta, from the western borderland to the coastal region of the (South) China Sea, hundreds of major targets came under fire in the same night: Divi-

sion and brigade HQs, air bases, positions in at least twenty towns and many dozen of sub-sector CPs and district capitals... Each well defended sectors as Saigon, Da Nang, Hue, Cam Ranh were also struck.

The enemy command has deliberately tried to minimize the importance and scope of these attacks which are still going on at present. Nevertheless, the western press recognized that they had sprung in the size "Tet onslaughts" launched on the night of February 22, 1969 and lasting nearly two months with heavy adverse losses and the famous Tet

MILITARY OPERATIONS

offensives of last year.

Given the large scale of the operations, we are not yet in a position to give full reports on them. According to initial account, released by *Giai Phong* Press agency up to now, the military operations since the night of May 11 can be summarized as follows:

Before the eruption of this new recrudescence of PLAF actions, three successful engagements were fought on Road No. 20 (Saigon-Dien Bien Phu) between Tan Trang and Dinh Quan, 65-84 km northeast of Saigon on May 8, 9, 11 and 12 against the units of puppet Infantry Division 18. On May 8, a battalion of Regiment 43 was wiped out at Tam Bang, 7km southeast of Tan Trang: 200 enemy troops were killed or wounded, many others cap-

tured, 2 choppers downed. On May 9, 3 battalions coming to the rescue of the battered outfitts were intercepted: in 40 minutes' fighting one of them was knocked out, the other two decimated, over 300 puppet soldiers killed, many others wounded, who were incidentally given the finishing stroke by B-52 carpet-bombing, a short time later. Meanwhile, other PLAF elements destroyed a puppet gun emplacement at Dinh Quat, putting out of action a company and destroying two 105mm mortars. On May 11, a motorized column coming from Dinh Quan was waylaid near La Nga bridge and the 2nd armoured squadron of puppet Infantry Division 18 lost in the ambush 13 M. 113 armoured cars and took 130

casualties. The following day, the patriotic forces wiped out, a motorized unit coming from La Nga, destroying 17 vehicles including 11 tanks and armoured cars, and inflicting 100 puppet casualties. Meanwhile, battalions leaving Dinh Quan was fought back with serious enemy losses.

It was also reported that in the attack against Da Nang airbase on the night of April 11, the PLAF had put out of action over 500 enemy soldiers, destroyed 300 vehicles, 10 aircraft, nearly 150,000 tons of bombs and munitions and 10 million litres of fuel.

At Kontum airfield, stormed on the night of May 10, 300 GIs were killed or wounded and 12 aircraft destroyed.

Saigon

16,000 Motor Pedicab Drivers Claim End to Forced Unemployment

IT is reported by the Saigon press that recently 16,000 motor pedicab drivers had raised their voices against the Saigon authorities' arbitrary withdrawal of their driving licences, which has reduced them to prolonged unemployment.

At the beginning of 1968, frightened by the attacks of the PLAF, the puppet authorities, without any plausible reason, arrested 8,000 motor cabs and withdrew the licences of their drivers, suspecting them of having had a hand in the Liberation fighters' exploits. The vehicles unscrubbed and exposed to the sun and rain, had been ruined by rust. Then after repeated protests from their drivers, these motor pedicabs were returned to them but not their driving licences. Vague placards on the cabs had been made never to be lived up to.

Uncontent with these dilatory manoeuvres of the puppet rulers, the motor pedicab drivers called a meeting and decided to send a delegation to press for steps by the Saigon authorities to put an end to their protracted unemployment.

Their struggle has enjoyed the support of all Saigon workers.

Thieu's "Freedom of the Press"

ON May 13, the Saigon quislings closed down the Saigon paper *Dau* (the People) under the pretext that it had taken up task Saigon's agrarian policy. Western agencies reported.

Besides, public opinion was affected by the ban clamped down by Nguyen Van Thieu on another paper, *Tan Dau* (New People) edited by Nguyen Ha Luong, President of the Saigon "House of Representatives", because *Tan Dau* had carried the rumour that Tran Van Huong was contemplating "resignation" of his "premiership" and denunciation of Nguyen Van Thieu as "a traitor to the country" and a "speculator in his compatriots' blood." Saigon opinion underlined that Huong's rumoured resignation brought to broad daylight the bitter antagonism between Thieu and Huong.

Also in his paper *Tan Dau*, Ha Luong quoted Nguyen Can Ky, who had been a year deprived by his rival Nguyen Van Thieu of all his men one by one—as saying that the South Viet Nam people "no longer liked the nationalistic regime" (the Saigon puppet regime). Nguyen Ha Luong concurred with Ky elaborating: "Many people, many groups of people who style themselves nationalistic are in fact spongers, tea room politicians and speculators, past masters in malversation to the detriment of the broad social strata, chiefly the worse off ones, among them middle income-bracket public servants who are now roughing it."

Main May 11 PLAF night attacks and enemy losses (incomplete)

Enemy companies wiped out

Road convoys put out of action and number of vehicles destroyed

Attack against enemy troops in operation

- Battalion CPs
- Regiment CPs
- Brigade HQs
- Division HQs
- Airfield
- Enemy bases
- District capital or military sub-sector CPs attacked
- Provincial capital or sector CPs attacked

